THE WEDDING EXPERIENCE

NICOLE Perez

CAPTURING THE MOMENTS YOU DIDN’T KNOW YOU WANTED TO REMEMBER

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WHO WE ARE

THE TEAM

ABOUT NICOLE

You've probably read my "About" page, so I'll keep it short here: I'm a film-first Jesus-first photographer based out of MN (traveling US-wide for no extra fee)!

ABOUT CRISTIAN

I get the blessing of shooting weddings alongside my husband Cristian, who will be your complimentary second shooter! Cristian has over 8 years of experience shooting hand-held photo & 4 years shooting drone photo & video!

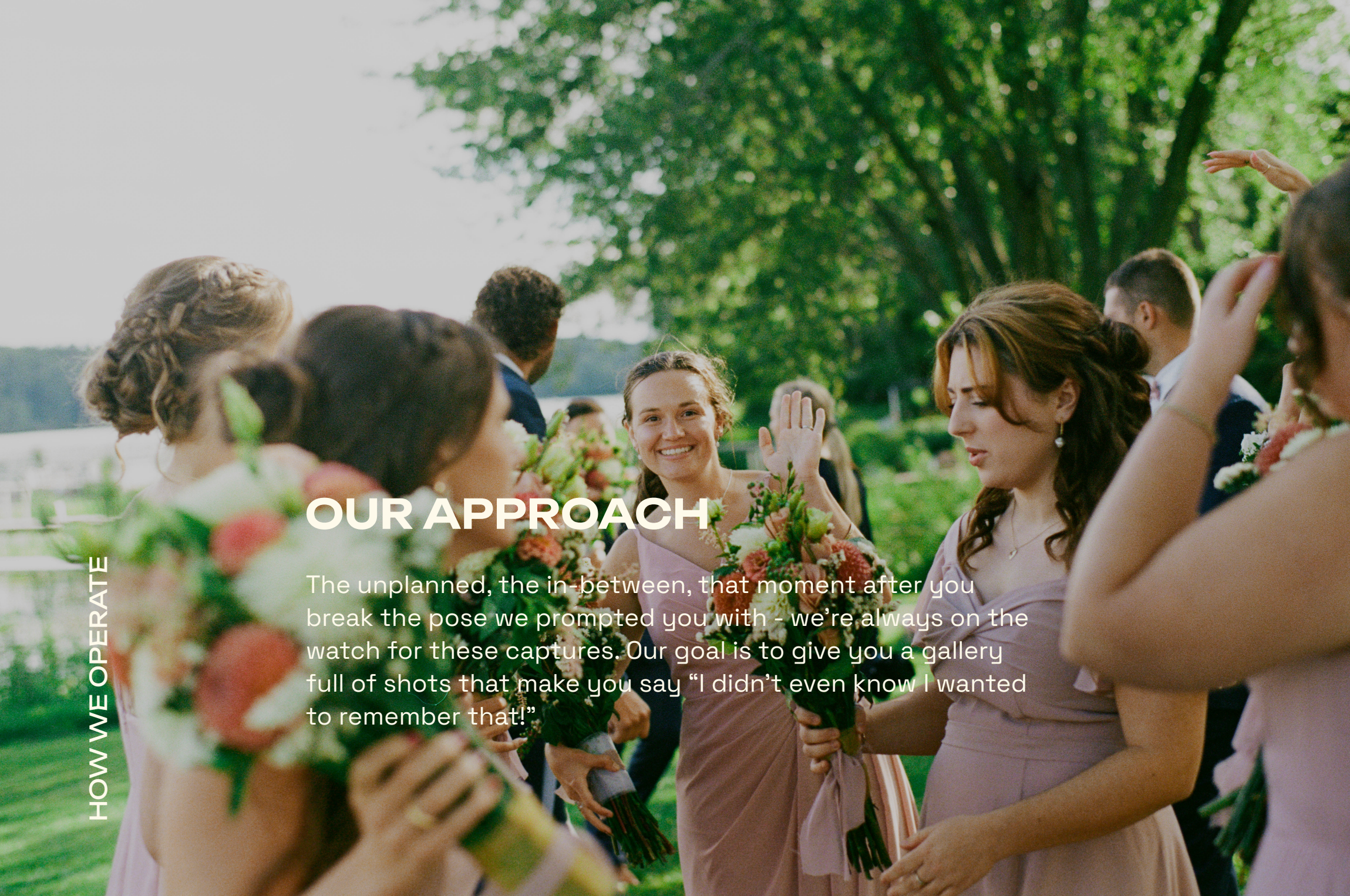
ABOUT US

We've known each other for ~8 years now, have been married for 2 years, and are still loving every minute of it. We're both Twin Cities natives but we don't hesitate when there's a chance to hop on a plane & explore a new place!

HOW WE OPERATE

OUR MOTIVATION

For us, nothing holds a candle to the simple joy of **you two together**. Snapping you both cracking up at something unexpected or getting emotional during vows is more gratifying to us than the most brilliant decor or the most beautiful venue. Bring on the joy!



HOW WE OPERATE

OUR APPROACH

The unplanned, the in-between, that moment after you break the pose we prompted you with - we're always on the watch for these captures. Our goal is to give you a gallery full of shots that make you say "I didn't even know I wanted to remember that!"

THE UNPLANNED

“I didn’t even know you were there for my champagne bottle shenanigans”

- Dominique

THE UNPLANNED

“That’s why I have the pretty umbrellas”

- Bridget, when it started raining

THE UNPLANNED

Reactions to Dominique's brother goofing around with his soon-to-be brother-in-law during wedding party portraits

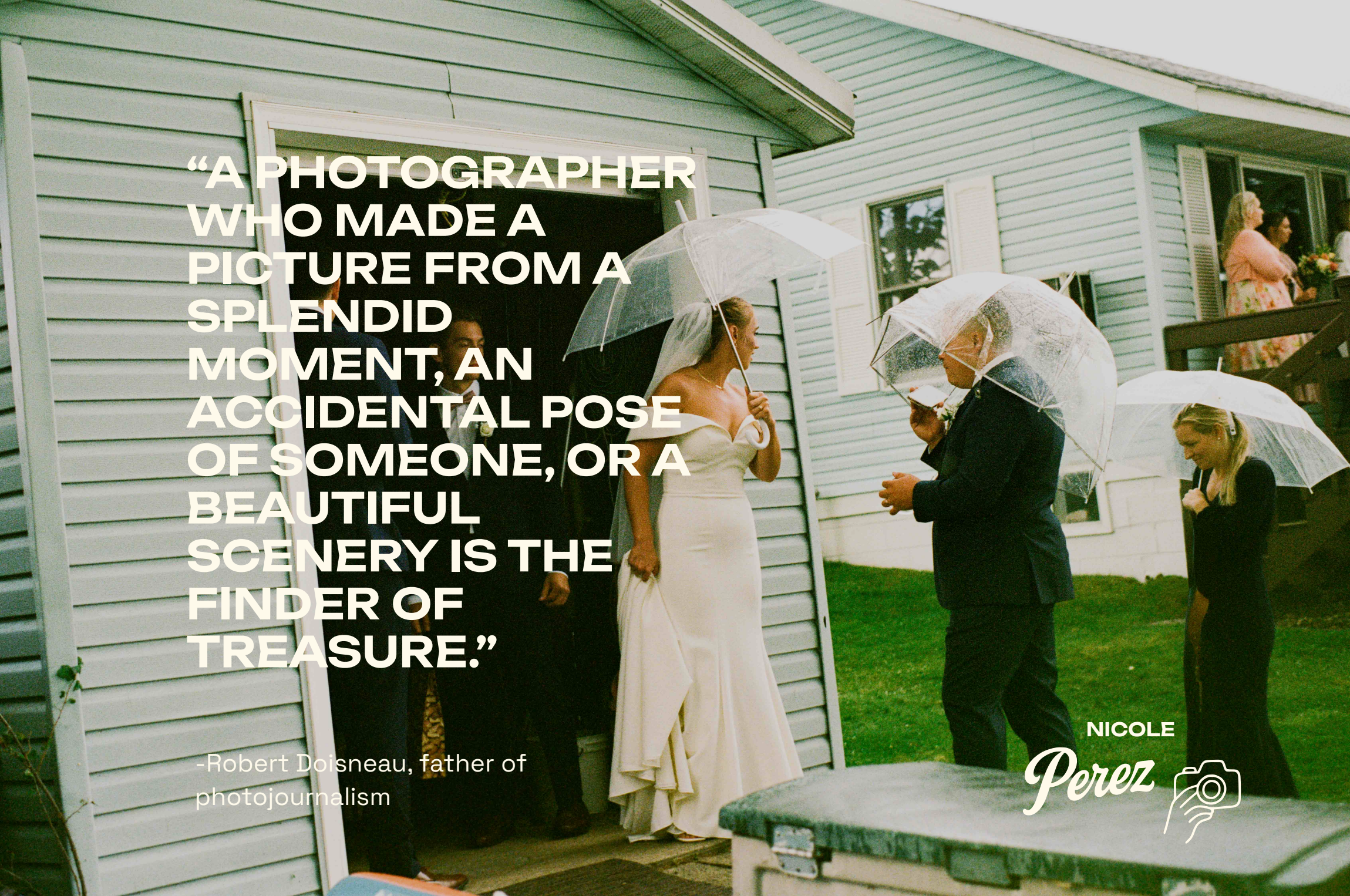
THE IN-BETWEEN

Unposed captures of Grant & Claire and Tyler & Kate

THE IN-BETWEEN

“I LOVEEEEE the cocktail hour kiss! Perfect shot <3”

- Dominique



“A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO MADE A PICTURE FROM A SPLENDID MOMENT, AN ACCIDENTAL POSE OF SOMEONE, OR A BEAUTIFUL SCENERY IS THE FINDER OF TREASURE.”

-Robert Doisneau, father of photojournalism

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THE DAY-OF

PLANNING THE DAY:
THE TIMELINE

One of the biggest favors you can do yourself for the day-of is to create a relaxed timeline with lots of margin - examples of which you'll see on the following pages. A day with an air of unhurry allows for beautiful, unplanned moments to arise out of the calm and the wait. "Ruthlessly eliminate hurry" from your day, in the words of Dallas Willard, and we promise you'll have the most joyous celebration imaginable.

“YOU MUST RUTHLESSLY ELIMINATE HURRY...THERE IS NOTHING ELSE.”

-Dallas Willard, American theologian and philosopher

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SAMPLE TIMELINE #1:

PRE-CEREMONY FIRST LOOK

12-2: Getting ready & details
2-3: First look & couples portraits
3-4: Wedding party & family photos
4-4:30: Rest and relax before ceremony
4:30-5: Ceremony
5-6: Cocktail hour & additional portraits
6-7: Dinner, golden hour & toasts
7: Hit the dance floor!

SAMPLE TIMELINE #2:

FIRST LOOK AT THE ALTAR

12-2: Getting ready & details

2-3:30: Bridal party, groomsmen & family photos

3:30-4: Rest & relax before ceremony

4-4:30: Ceremony

4:30-5:30: Couples portraits, wedding party, family photos

6-7: Dinner, golden hour & toasts

7: Hit the dance floor!

DETAIL SHOTS

It should come as no surprise that our approach to detail shots leans a little unconventional. We love to stir up visual interest with untraditional shots of your day-of touches. We hope that, rather than blithely checking a “layflat” box, we create fascinating images that you and others revisit and think, “What **was** happening here?”

COUPLE PORTRAITS

Since our bread-and-butter is those in-between, unposed moments, our couples portrait time is more relaxed and activity-based than formal. Think walking around the block, lounging, having a drink - really just enjoying each other's company! Our prompts tend to lightly guide rather than rigidly pose - ultimately, our goal is to make you both feel comfortable being your natural selves & snap you interacting. You'd be surprised how many of our portraits are actually candid (the photo at left being one of them)! If we're not saying anything, don't sweat it - that means what you're doing already is perfect.

WHAT IF I HAVE PARTICULAR POSES I WANT TO GET? CAN WE GET THOSE?

We're so glad you asked! Yes, 100%! We love it when our clients have a vision for their portraits! We encourage couples to share a mood board (can be Pinterest, Canva, even just an iPhone note with some screenshots) & we'll make sure your gallery includes some of the given poses. Even if you don't want the exact poses you've saved, seeing your vision helps us tailor our approach to you & your design for the day! So what're you waiting for? Send it on over!

WEDDING PARTY PORTRAITS

Even for wedding party portraits, we love to blur the line between posed and candid through playful, unexpected prompts. Whether it's your groomsmen lounging around you while you put your feet up, or you and your significant other running down the church steps as fast as you can, we aim to create joyous moments from the out-of-the-ordinary.* Who says a wedding party portrait couldn't be a didn't-know-you-wanted-to-remember moment, too?

*Don't worry - we do also make sure to get a few of the direct, smiling-at-the-camera portraits too during this time, for posterity's sake!

THE CEREMONY

Ceremonies can run the gamut from short-and-sweet to lengthy-and-sacred - and we love **all** of it! Here are some variations on the ceremony to consider:

Personal vows: professing vows **both** privately at the first look & publicly during the ceremony gives you both the intimacy of a private first look, while retaining the communal feel of giving your vows in front of your guests

Your officiant: having an officiant who knows you personally adds such a meaningful touch - some couples choose the pastor or priest with whom they did pre-marital counseling, which ensures familiarity with one another

TIPS FOR COCKTAIL HOUR

Time for your guests to kick off their Sunday shoes while we get a few additional portraits! This is also a great time to throw in an outfit change or variation - think swapping out the sling-backs for some sneakers, or switching from gown to cocktail dress! Even opting for a small shift can be a ton of fun & adds variety to your day!

GOLDEN HOUR

No gallery would be complete without **golden hour** photos. About an hour before sunset (and also, after sunrise), the sun turns everything a rich golden tone. Since golden hour changes depending on the time of year, we'll determine the time based on your day & help you build time for these portraits into your timeline. On overcast days, instead of tinges of gold, there's more of a "soft box" effect - which is also beautiful! Either way, we still like to have you slip out around this time to get a quiet moment together after the bustle of the day's events.

DINNER & TOASTS

We recommend kicking off toasts not long after we take golden hour portraits - after all, we've still got dancing on the way! During toasts, we focus both on the reactions - the laughs, cries, and cheers of you & your guests - as well as the emotion of the toast-makers themselves.

K.I.S.S.

To close things out, we leave you with the words of Michael Scott (via Dwight) - “Keep it simple, stupid” - and our own twist on that advice: “Keep it you.”

Don’t feel pressured to do something on your day simply because it’s “tradition” or because it’s a trend. And that goes for all the advice we gave in the previous pages, too. Keep it simple and keep it you - whatever that means for you both!

“THERE ARE NO RULES FOR GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS; THERE ARE ONLY GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS.”

-Ansel Adams, American landscape photographer

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OUTRO

WHAT NEXT?

That's a wrap! If you like what you've read/seen so far, let's jump on a consult call to chat!

On the call, I (Nicole) will go over some details around my approach, the day-of and the booking process, but in general I like to keep it pretty low-key/ informal. This is mostly a time for us to get to know each other, and for you to decide if I'm a good fit for your vision! I can't wait to meet you both!

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